

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

In addition, the RF transmitter 402 preferably includes an RF data sampler 422 for inserting a stream of samples of the RF data from the local subtree into the maintenance data stream. In one embodiment the RF data sampler 422 is activated by a command sent from the head end system. In another embodiment the processor 420 is programmed to activate the RF data sampler 422 on a periodic basis, such as once per minute. When activated, the RF data sampler 422, in conjunction with the processor ~~[[402]]~~ 420, generates a sufficient number of samples of the RF data from the local subtree to enable a computer or other device that receives the sampled RF data (via the maintenance data stream) to perform a Fourier analysis of that data, for instance to determine whether there is excessive ingress at the local subtree.